

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (canceled)
2. (currently amended): The method of claim ~~[[1]]~~ 13, wherein assembling a plurality of glass rods comprises inserting the glass rods into a housing and filling the housing with a blocking medium.
3. (previously presented): The method of claim 2, wherein extracting the glass rod pieces from the slices comprises removing the blocking medium from the slices.
4. (currently amended): The method of claim ~~[[1]]~~ 13, wherein assembling a plurality of glass rods comprises inserting the glass rods into a plurality of split rings spaced in a row and tightening the split rings around the glass rods.
5. (previously presented): The method of claim 4, wherein extracting the glass rod pieces from the slices comprises loosening the split rings.
6. (currently amended): ~~The A method of claim 1~~ producing lenses, comprising:
assembling a plurality of glass rods having a desired length in side-by-side configuration into a single unit, wherein assembling a plurality of glass rods comprises arranging the glass rods in a row in between a mat such that the mat is peelable from the glass rods;
cutting the single unit into multiple slices, each slice comprising an array of glass rod pieces;
finishing the slices to a desired thickness and surface finish; and
extracting the glass rod pieces from the slices to produce a plurality of individual lenses.

7. (original) The method of claim 6, wherein extracting the glass rod pieces from the slices comprises separating the mat from the glass rod pieces.
8. (original) The method of claim 6, wherein the mat comprises plastic film.
9. (original) The method of claim 6, wherein the mat comprises glass.
10. (currently amended) The method of claim [[1]] 13, wherein finishing the slices comprises lapping the slices.
11. (currently amended) The method of claim [[1]] 13, wherein finishing the slices comprises polishing the slices.
12. (currently amended) The method of claim [[1]] 13, wherein finishing the slices comprises coating the slices with an anti-reflective material.
13. (currently amended) The A method of [claim 1] producing lenses, comprising:
assembling a plurality of glass rods having a desired length in side-by-side configuration
into a single unit;
cutting the single unit into multiple slices, each slice comprising an array of glass rod
pieces;
finishing the slices to a desired thickness and surface finish, wherein finishing the slices
comprises forming a facet angle on at least one of the slices; and
extracting the glass rod pieces from the slices to produce a plurality of individual lenses.
14. (previously presented) The method of claim 13, wherein forming a facet angle on at least one of the slices comprises placing the slice in a fixture that orients a face of each of the glass rod pieces in the slice at an angle.

15. (previously presented) The method of claim 14, further comprising lapping the oriented faces of the glass rod pieces.

16. (previously presented) The method of claim 14, further comprising polishing the oriented faces of the glass rod pieces.

17. (canceled)

18. (canceled)

19. (canceled)

20. (new) The method of claim 13, wherein the glass rods have a gradient refractive index.